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AN APPEAL FOR MERCY  
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*PLACE:*

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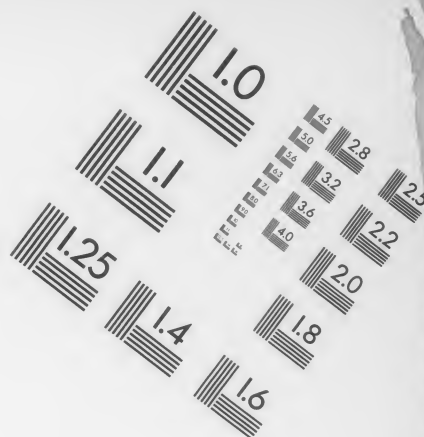
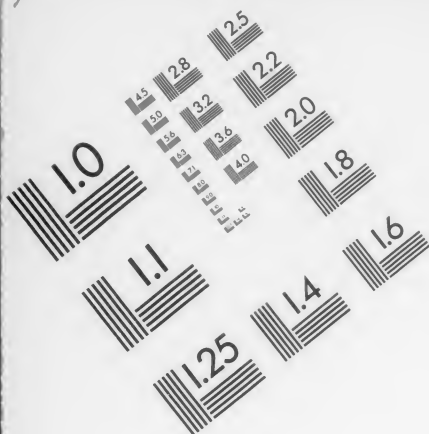


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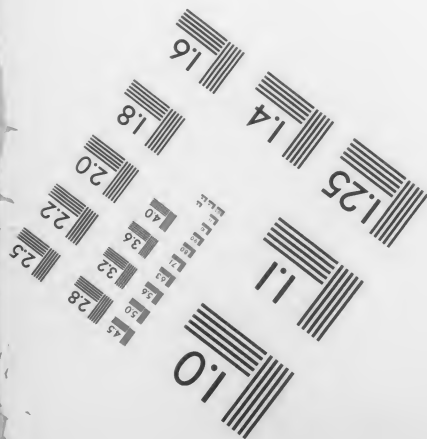
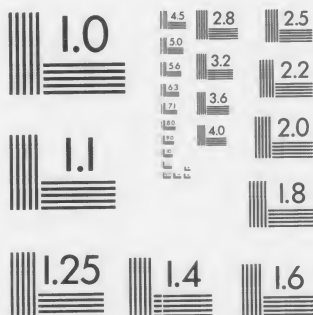
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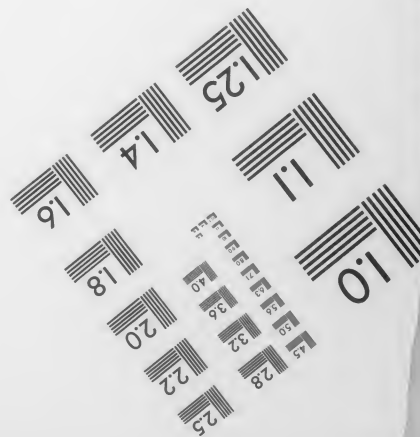
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# AN APPEAL FOR MERCY FOR DOGS.

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The National Canine Defence League makes an earnest appeal on behalf of the unfortunate dogs, who are, by many callous, heartless and most cruel owners, drowned, poisoned or turned adrift when the annual licence becomes due. Could anything be more atrociously inhuman? To keep a dog, perhaps first as a little puppy, to accept his love and devotion, to take what pleasure his companionship gives, and then, in order to avoid payment of a few shillings, to give him a cruel death, or cast him out, without food, without shelter in the cold winter months, to starve, to endure unspeakable prolonged suffering and misery, and to die uncared for, unpitied and alone; or to become the victim of unimaginable torture in the vivisector's laboratory?

A homeless dog is one of the saddest creatures and one of the saddest sights on earth. He is hungry, thirsty, tired, cold, possibly ill; he looks up with pitiful, imploring eyes into the faces of those who seem to him kindly, but usually his timid appeal meets with no response or with harsh rebuff; he is pushed roughly away, driven from each door which he vainly hoped might open to admit him to comfort, warmth, food, life and love. When his day of hunger, terror and utter despair and wretchedness is over, where can he lie down to sleep in the long, bitterly cold night? On some doorstep or in some gateway, to be cruelly ejected, without so much as a crust to lessen his fainting hunger in the morning. Poor waif; for no fault of his, every man's

hand is against him. How can he procure even a little food? If in a town, by picking up scraps where he may find them, filthy garbage, which fills him with horrible disease; if in the country, possibly by poaching, when he is shot or caught in a trap. Poor faithful, loving-hearted dog, he has done nothing to deserve the terrible fate to which the master whom he loved and trusted has consigned him.

People who own dogs, well knowing that they intend at licensing time to turn them out thus, have no right to possess them at all. To keep a dog with this intention is deliberate, wanton cruelty of the grossest description. Those who are really unable to pay the licence should either give or sell their dogs to good and happy homes, or take them to the Dogs' Homes, or to a Veterinary Surgeon, where they will be mercifully destroyed. This is surely the very least return for a dog's limitless, true-hearted affection, and is a manifest and bounden duty.

To turn horses or cattle out without food or shelter is very rightly held as a punishable offence; why then should similar justice be denied to dogs? Why should they be thus treated, and the inhuman brutes who perpetrate this ruthless cruelty go scot free?

In the name of Christ the Merciful, we plead for the poor dogs who cannot plead for themselves.

C. A. M. BAILEY,

Hon. Secretary,

January, 1909.

National Canine Defence League.

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*Leaflets and all information can be had gratis of*

**BENJN. BRYAN, Secretary,**

**NATIONAL CANINE DEFENCE LEAGUE,**

**27, Regent Street, London, S.W.**

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